

NSC BRIEFING

25 June 1968

CYPRUS (short)

I. Recent events revived traditional Greek-Turkish antagonism.

A. In Turkey demonstrations continue amidst rumors of troop movements.

1. Isolated incidents against Greek minorities.

B. Strong sentiment among Greek people for war with Turkey. Junior officers particularly bellicose.

1. Air force tightening alert status but hostilities improbable unless serious incident initiated by Turkey.

2. Premier favors dramatic moves, such as govt resignation, if Cyprus moves unfavorable.

3. Greece emphasizing ties with Yugoslavia. Athens states that it does not intend to cooperate with Turkey in NATO.

II. Situation on Cyprus tense but relatively quiet. British confident they can control situation.

III. Greeks, Turks and Cypriots reject new British proposals for Cyprus.

A. Athens and Nicosia oppose features "favoring partition".

B. Ankara opposes because of failure provide for partition as final solution.

C. London insists it will eventually push ahead implementing plan regardless of opposition.

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